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27 July 1965

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Dominican Republic: Business, professional, and labor leaders are preparing to exert further pressure on the Imbert government to accept the OAS formula for a political settlement.

In his talks with the OAS committee, Imbert has obstructed efforts to arrive at a solution. He and Alejandro Zeller--the most dynamic of the other junta members--maintain that it would be both unnecessary and undesirable to have another provisional regime before elections. They also maintain that elections should be deferred for at least two years. The OAS committee has proposed elections in six to nine months.

The support Imbert had enjoyed from business and professional people when his regime was the only apparent alternative to the rebels now seems to be fading. His recent efforts to put on a show of popular support have failed. Important businessmen in both Santo Domingo and Santiago, as well as the country's largest labor confederation, are now prepared to repudiate Imbert if he continues his present stalling tactics.

Meanwhile, Eduardo Read's refusal to serve as vice president in the proposed provisional government under Hector Garcia Godoy is a setback, but not a serious one, to the OAS formula. The OAS committee has at least one other candidate under consideration. Read explained to Garcia Godoy that his decision resulted primarily from the fact that the problems to be faced by the proposed provisional government are too difficult. He feared it would be unable to control the military and prevent reprisals and repression.

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Congo: [The political struggle between President Kasavubu and Premier Tshombé continues.]

[Kasavubu has brushed aside Tshombé's offer to make a statement supporting him for re-election, saying that he had little faith in Tshombé's public declarations.]

[Last week, in a lengthy talk with US Ambassador Godley, Kasavubu remained extremely critical of Tshombé. At the same time, he denied that he wished him to resign and said he had given Tshombé a "guarantee" to rename him formateur of a new government. The president, however, continued to reject suggestions that he consider constitutional changes aimed at shifting some of his power to the premier.]

[Tshombé's reaction to all this is uncertain. There are still reports that he intends to resign and return to Katanga, but these appear designed primarily to worry Kasavubu and his supporters. Nevertheless, Tshombé may be making contingency plans. The US Army attaché has a report that mercenary chief Colonel Hoare has arranged to shift his men to Katanga in the event of a Kasavubu-Tshombé break.]

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NOTES

Greece: Former deputy premier Stephanopoulos has now entered the Greek political fray. In the press yesterday he announced he would be willing to serve as premier if he receives the support of the majority of the Center Union parliamentary deputies. Stephanopoulos had been viewed as a probable compromise candidate if the new government failed to gain parliamentary approval. Yesterday's declaration may have pulled the rug out from under Athanasiadis-Novas by claiming that the premier-designate does not have a chance of winning a confidence vote.

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USSR: The preliminary statistics for the Soviet economy in the first half of 1965 show industrial output up 9.3 percent over the first half of 1964. The preliminary statistics for the first quarter of 1965 also indicated advances, but were qualified by later data showing that the increased growth chiefly resulted from a recovery in the light and food industries from their very low growth rates in 1964. The new data thus far available suggest that this situation continues.

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Lebanon: The new ten-man cabinet formed on 25 July under the leadership of Rashid Karami has all the earmarks of a caretaker government, which will serve until a cabinet of more prominent political leaders can be formed. Karami, however, will probably be able to appease those in parliament whose opposition led to the resignation of the reform-minded Uwayni cabinet last week. The new government most likely will try to continue Lebanon's neutrality in inter-Arab affairs, and its relative moderation toward Israel.

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